

CLAIMS:

1. A method comprising:
receiving sterilization process information from a sterilization facility via a computer
5 network;
generating a report based on the received information; and
providing a network client with access to the report via the computer network.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the network client is associated with a
10 reviewer that analyzes the report to evaluate compliance with sterilization process standards
3. The method of claim 1, wherein providing access to the report includes
transmitting the report to the network client via the computer network.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein providing access to the report includes
15 serving a document containing the report upon request by the network client.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the document is a web page.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein generating a report includes archiving the
20 sterilization process information and generating the report based on the sterilization process
information upon request by the network client.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the report includes arranging the
25 sterilization process information to illustrate compliance with sterilization process standards.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the network client is a regulatory agency or
an audit organization.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the report identifies individual sterilization
30 loads and load contents.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the report includes sterilization processing characteristics for the individual sterilization loads, the sterilization processing characteristics for each load including at least one of type of sterilizer, sterilizer identification, cycle time, sterilization time, temperature, pressure, humidity and sterilant concentration.

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11. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving sterilization process information includes receiving sterilization process information from multiple sterilization facilities, and generating a report includes generating reports for the multiple sterilization facilities.

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12. The method of claim 11, wherein generating a report includes generating a report that integrates sterilization process information received from two or more of the sterilization facilities.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

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determining consumption of a quantity of a sterilization material by the sterilization facility; and

processing an order for delivery of an additional quantity of the sterilization material to the sterilization facility based on the determination.

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14. The method of claim 13, wherein the sterilization material includes at least one of sterilant, pack material, and indicators.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving an order for sterilization material from the sterilization facility; and

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processing the order to direct delivery of the sterilization material to the sterilization facility.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
providing access to information relating to sterilization materials;
providing access to information relating to sterilization processes; and
providing interactive communication between technical personnel knowledgeable in
sterilization processes and sterilization facility personnel.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
accumulating information concerning best practices and trends in sterilization
processing from multiple network clients; and
providing access to the best practices and trends information via the network.

18. A system comprising:
a client computer, associated with a sterilization facility, that transmits sterilization
process information via a computer network; and
a network server that receives the sterilization process information from the client
computer via the computer network, generates a report based on the received information,
and provides a network client with access to the report via the computer network.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the client computer is associated with a
reviewer that analyzes the report to evaluate compliance with sterilization process standards

20. The system of claim 18, wherein the network server provides access to the
report by transmitting the report to the network client via the computer network.

21. The system of claim 18, wherein the network server provides access to the
report by serving a document containing the report upon request by the network client.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the document is a web page.

23. The system of claim 18, wherein the network server archives the sterilization
process information and generates the report upon request by the network client.

24. The system of claim 18, wherein generating the report includes arranging the sterilization process information to illustrate compliance with sterilization process standards.

5 25. The system of claim 18, wherein the network client is a regulatory agency or an audit organization.

26. The system of claim 18, wherein the report identifies individual sterilization loads and load contents.

10 27. The system of claim 26, wherein the report includes sterilization processing characteristics for the individual sterilization loads, the sterilization processing characteristics for each load including at least one of type of sterilizer, sterilizer identification, cycle time, sterilization time, temperature, pressure, humidity and sterilant concentration.

15 28. The system of claim 18, wherein the client computer includes multiple client computers that transmit sterilization process information for multiple sterilization facilities, and the network server generates multiple reports for the multiple sterilization facilities.

20 29. The system of claim 28, wherein the network server generates a report that integrates sterilization process information received from client computers associated with two or more of the sterilization facilities.

25 30. The system of claim 18, wherein the network server determines consumption of a quantity of a sterilization material by the sterilization facility, and processes an order for delivery of an additional quantity of the sterilization material to the sterilization facility based on the determination.

30 31. The system of claim 30, wherein the sterilization material includes at least one of sterilant, pack material, and indicators.

32. The system of claim 30, wherein the network server receives an order for sterilization material from the sterilization facility, and processes the order to direct delivery of the sterilization material to the sterilization facility.

5 33. The system of claim 30, wherein the network server provides access to information relating to sterilization materials, access to information relating to sterilization processes, and interactive communication between technical personnel knowledgeable in sterilization processes and sterilization facility personnel.

10 34. The system of claim 18, wherein the network server accumulates information concerning best practices and trends in sterilization processing from multiple network clients, and provides access to the best practices and trends information via the network.

15 35. A method comprising:
receiving sterilization process information from a sterilization facility via a computer network;
determining consumption of a quantity of a sterilization material by the sterilization facility based on the sterilization process information; and
20 processing an order for delivery of an additional quantity of the sterilization material to the sterilization facility based on the determination.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the sterilization material includes at least one of sterilant, pack material, and indicators.

25 37. The method of claim 35, wherein the sterilization material includes electronic information for generation of a printed indicator, the method further comprising transmitting the electronic information to the client via the computer network.

30 38. The method of claim 35, wherein the sterilization material includes self-indicating ink, the method further comprising delivering a quantity of the ink to the client.

39. The method of claim 35, wherein the sterilization process information includes characteristics of a sterilization process, the method further comprising identifying a type of the sterilization material based on the characteristics of the sterilization process.

5 40. A system comprising:
a client computer, associated with a sterilization facility, that transmits sterilization process information via a computer network; and
a network server that receives the sterilization process information from the client computer via the computer network, determines consumption of a quantity of a sterilization material by the sterilization facility based on the sterilization process information, and
10 processes an order for delivery of an additional quantity of the sterilization material to the sterilization facility based on the determination.

15 41. The system of claim 40, wherein the sterilization material includes at least one of sterilant, pack material, and indicators.

20 42. The system of claim 40, wherein the sterilization material includes electronic information for generation of a printed indicator, and the network server transmits the electronic information to the client via the computer network.

25 43. The system of claim 40, wherein the sterilization material includes self-indicating ink, and the network server processes an order for delivery of a quantity of the ink to the client.

30 44. The system of claim 40, wherein the sterilization process information includes characteristics of a sterilization process, and the network server identifies a type of the sterilization material based on the characteristics of the sterilization process.

45. A method comprising:

receiving sterilization process information from a sterilization facility via a computer network;

determining consumption of a quantity of a sterilization material by the sterilization facility based on the sterilization process information;

processing an order for delivery of an additional quantity of the sterilization material to the sterilization facility based on the determination;

scheduling maintenance for sterilization equipment associated with the sterilization facility based on the sterilization process information;

generating a report that indicates compliance with sterilization process standards based on the sterilization process information; and

providing a reviewer with access to the report via the computer network.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein the reviewer is a regulatory agency or an audit organization.

47. The method of claim 45, wherein the report identifies individual sterilization loads and load contents, and the report includes sterilization processing characteristics for the individual sterilization loads, the sterilization processing characteristics for each load including type of sterilizer, sterilizer identification, cycle time, sterilization time, temperature, and pressure.

48. A system comprising:

a client computer, associated with a sterilization facility, that transmits sterilization process information via a computer network; and

a network server that:

determines consumption of a quantity of a sterilization material by the sterilization facility based on the sterilization process information;

processes an order for delivery of an additional quantity of the sterilization material to the sterilization facility based on the determination;

schedules maintenance for sterilization equipment associated with the sterilization facility based on the sterilization process information;

generates a report that indicates compliance with sterilization process standards based on the sterilization process information; and

provides a reviewer with access to the report via the computer network.

49. The method of claim 48, wherein the reviewer is a regulatory agency or an audit organization.

50. The method of claim 48, wherein the report identifies individual sterilization loads and load contents, and the report includes sterilization processing characteristics for the individual sterilization loads, the sterilization processing characteristics for each load including type of sterilizer, sterilizer identification, cycle time, sterilization time, temperature, and pressure.

51. A method comprising:

receiving sterilization process information from a sterilization facility via a computer network;

generating a cost report based on the received information; and

providing a network client with access to the report via the computer network.

52. A system comprising:

a client computer, associated with a sterilization facility, that transmits sterilization process information via a computer network; and

a network server that receives the sterilization process information from the client computer via the computer network, generates a cost report based on the received information, and provides a network client with access to the report via the computer network.